Ellen "Ellie" McLeod

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Criminal Justice Ph.D. student and applied researcher with experience supporting federal homeland security initiatives, law enforcement investigations, criminal intelligence analysis, and public safety research. Proven ability to transform complex data and information from government, law enforcement, industry, and community stakeholders into analytical products that support operational planning, program evaluation, and evidence-based decision-making. Experience briefing senior leaders and government officials, conducting investigative and policy research, evaluating public safety programs, and communicating research findings to diverse audiences. Brings a unique combination of federal, law enforcement, academic research, and teaching experience with expertise in crime analysis, intelligence-informed research, policing, officer safety, victimization, and public safety.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Criminal Justice — Expected May 2028
Michigan State University — *East Lansing, MI*

Master of Arts (M.A.), Criminal Justice — May 2024
The University of Memphis — *Memphis, TN*

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Criminal Justice & Criminology — August 2022
The University of Memphis — *Memphis, TN*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Fellow — *East Lansing, MI*
Michigan Justice Statistics Center — August 2024 – Present
Supervisor: Dr. Scott Wolfe

- Conduct research and analysis on criminal justice issues in collaboration with state, federal, and law enforcement partners.
- Develop research deliverables and written products for law enforcement partners.
- Synthesize research findings and complex information into accessible products for practitioner and stakeholder audiences.
- Contribute to applied criminal justice research addressing policing, public safety, officer safety, and related issues.

Graduate Research Assistant — *East Lansing, MI*
Michigan State University — August 2024 – Present
Supervisor: Dr. Scott Wolfe

- Collaborate with multidisciplinary research teams on policing, officer safety, victimization, and public safety initiatives.
- Conduct evaluations of police training to recommend improvements & areas of excellence
- Research findings presented at two different national conferences
- Conduct literature reviews, qualitative and quantitative research, and evaluation activities.

Graduate Research Assistant — *East Lansing, MI*
Women in Policing Research Study — February 2026 – Present
Supervisor: Dr. Melissa Morabito

- Conduct interviews with law enforcement personnel to gather qualitative data on experiences, perspectives, and issues related to women in policing.
- Recruit law enforcement participants through professional outreach and direct communication with agencies and personnel.
- Establish and maintain professional relationships with law enforcement agencies and prospective research participants to support study recruitment and participation.

Graduate Research Assistant — *East Lansing, MI*
G.R.E.A.T. Long-Term Follow-Up Study — November 2024 – November 2025
Supervisor: Dr. Steven Chermak

- Compiled and organized large-scale open-source datasets from publicly available sources for longitudinal research.
- Managed large and complex datasets, ensuring data were accurately organized and documented for statistical analysis.
- Conducted systematic open-source data collection to identify and compile information relevant to research objectives.

Graduate Research Assistant — *Memphis, TN*
The University of Memphis — August 2022 – May 2024

Supervisor: Dr. Timothy McCuddy

- Supported research projects involving criminal justice, policing, legal processes, and student perceptions of the criminal justice system.
- Evaluated public safety initiatives and programs to support city efforts to combat juvenile crime.
- Conducted literature reviews and evaluated research findings to identify trends and support policy recommendations.

Table Facilitator, Energy Innovation Summit - Community Members *East Lansing, MI*
Office of the Mayor April 2026

- Facilitated structured discussions with community members to gather perspectives, concerns, and priorities related to energy innovation initiatives.
- Communicated research objectives and discussion topics to community participants while adapting facilitation approaches to diverse audiences.

Table Facilitator, Energy Innovation Summit - Stakeholders *East Lansing, MI*
Office of the Mayor February 2026

- Facilitated structured discussions with stakeholders to gather perspectives, concerns, and priorities related to energy innovation initiatives.
- Communicated research objectives and discussion topics to stakeholder participants while adapting facilitation approaches to diverse audiences.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DHS Research Intern, Critical Infrastructure Security & Resilience Research Program *Washington, D.C*
Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate June 2026 – September 2026
Supervisor: Brannan Villee

- Conduct research and analysis supporting critical infrastructure and homeland security initiatives across 16 sectors
- Collect and synthesize information from 20+ government, private, and industry stakeholders to support research priorities
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to identify operational challenges and support mission-focused objectives
- Briefed stakeholders on eight weeks of research finding, tailoring delivery for technical and non-technical decision-makers

DHS Research Intern, Immigration Security Solutions *Washington, D.C*
Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate June 2025 – August 2025
Supervisor: Susan Richards

- Conducted research examining migration and humanitarian issues affecting homeland security over a 5-decade period
- Evaluated policy and operational information to support federal decision-making
- Prepared and presented written analytical products & briefing materials for government officials from 3 months of research efforts

Criminal Intel Analyst *Bartlett, TN*
Bartlett Police Department May 2022 – June 2024
Supervisor: Captain Dustin Stewart

- Conducted analytics to identify trends, patterns, and concerns in 15+ different briefings with senior leadership
- Produced 20+ analytical reports for the Investigative Division to support operational planning and resource allocation
- Utilized investigative technology platforms, including: GeoTime, Cellebrite, FLOCK Camera Systems, Excel, and Power BI
- Collaborated with local, state, and federal partners to support criminal investigations

Public Safety Intern *Bartlett, TN*
Bartlett Police Department January 2022 – May 2022
Supervisor: Captain Dustin Stewart

- Gained cross-functional exposure to law enforcement operations
- Observed investigative processes and criminal justice operations across multiple law enforcement units

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant *Memphis, TN*
The University of Memphis August 2022 – May 2024
Supervisor: Dr. Timothy McCuddy

- Teaching competencies include Research Methods, Juvenile Delinquency, and Criminological Theory
- Assisted in developing and delivering instruction for more than 60 criminal justice lectures.
- Facilitated classroom discussions and translated complex criminal justice concepts into accessible educational content.

- Supported students in understanding criminal justice processes, research findings, and evidence-based practices.

PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

Wolfe, S. & **McLeod, E.** (2026). "*Evaluating the Behavioral Health Emergency Partnership Training*". Prepared for The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Dungy, J., **McLeod, E.,** Hickmon, N., & Humphrey, E. M., Idol, E. L., & Waldspurger, E. (2025)."*The Dean's Research Associate Program: A Comprehensive Evaluation of Postdoctoral Experiences and Outcomes*". Program evaluation report prepared for the Dean's Research Associate Program, Michigan State University.

Wolfe, S. & **McLeod, E.** (2025) "*An Evaluation of a Police Officer Training Program Focused on Interactions with Youth in Behavioral Health Crisis*". Prepared for The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Wolfe, S. & **McLeod, E.** (2025). "*Community Meeting Survey Question Options: A Report for the Oakland County Sheriff's Office*". Prepared for The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Clark, M., Watts, S., McCuddy, T., & **McLeod, E.** (2023). Antecedents of legal cynicism unpacked: The impact of parental incarceration, race and ACEs on its development. *Journal of Criminal Justice, 88,* 102116.

McCuddy, T., Clark, M., Guha, A., & **McLeod, E.** A longitudinal examination of gun reporting by middle and high-school students. *Journal of School Violence*, 23(4), 555-569

MANUSCRIPTS & RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

McLeod, E. Fear of Crime & School Avoidance Behaviors: The Moderating Impact of School Collective Efficacy

McLeod, E. Exploring the Third-Person Effect in Police Officers' Perceptions of Training

McLeod, E. & Bae, M. Predicting criminal justice undergraduate students' knowledge and perceptions of Miranda Rights.

McLeod, E. & Wolfe, S. Exploring the Danger Imperative: A Qualitative Analysis of Police Interviews.

Wolfe, S. E., **McLeod, E**., Knode, J., & Carter, T. More de-escalation training is associated with fewer deadly force encounters and improved officer safety.

Wolfe, S., Knode, J., **McLeod, E**., & Rojek, J. In the driver's seat: Does police academy performance shape subsequent crash involvement?

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

McLeod, E. (2026, March). *Exploring the Danger Imperative: A Qualitative Analysis of Police Interviews.* Research presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

McLeod, E. (2024, November). *Predicting Criminal Justice Student's Knowledge of Miranda Rights.* Research presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, San Francisco, California.

McLeod, E. & McCuddy, T. (2023, November). *A Consideration of How Police Contact Impacts Students' Perceptions of Police at School.* Research presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

INVITED GUEST LECTURES & TALKS

McLeod, E. (September 2026). "Miranda Rights and Questioning from Law Enforcement". Presented in CJ110 (Dr. Kayla Hoskins). Michigan State University.

McLeod, E. (February 2026). "Miranda Rights and Questioning from Law Enforcement". Presented in CJ110 (Dr. Kayla Hoskins). Michigan State University.

McLeod, E. (October 2025). "Miranda Rights and Questioning from Law Enforcement" Presented in CJ110 (Dr. Kayla Hoskins). Michigan State University.

Ferrante, D., Idol, E., **McLeod, E.,** Werth, K., & Cui, K. (September 2025). "Graduate School Information Session" Presented to Undergraduate students at Michigan State University. Arranged and invited by Daniella Ferrante, Graduate Student Association Vice-President.

WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Web Scraping Workshop February 2026
Facilitated in partnership with the MSU Terrorism, Extremism, & Crime Lab & Dr. Michael Becker

Writing Winning Grants February 2026
Facilitated in partnership with Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops (GWSW) & Michigan State University's Council of Graduate Students

MEDIA

Qualitative Research Methods, SAGE Research Methods Videos (SRMV), SAGE Publishing March 2026
Exploring the Danger Imperative: A Qualitative Analysis of Police Interviews, 2027 Release Date

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Event Coordinator *East Lansing, MI*
Graduate Student Association, Michigan State University May 2026 – Present

Board Member *Memphis, TN*
The PEYitforward Foundation September 2023 – Present

Co-Chair *East Lansing, MI*
Graduate Student Network, Michigan State University May 2025 – May 2026

Chair *East Lansing, MI*
Graduate Student Association Fundraising Committee, Michigan State University March 2026 – May 2026

Member *East Lansing, MI*
Graduate Student Recruitment & Mentorship Committee, Michigan State University September 2025 - May 2026

Event Coordinator *East Lansing, MI*
Graduate Student Association, Michigan State University May 2025 – May 2026

Doctoral Student Representative *East Lansing, MI*
School of Criminal Justice Hearing Board, Michigan State University August 2024 – July 2025

President *Memphis, TN*
Criminal Justice Student Association, The University of Memphis November 2022 – May 2024

Social Media Coordinator *Memphis, TN*
Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology, The University of Memphis September 2022 – May 2024

AWARDS & HONORS

Graduate Student Summer Internship Fellowship
Michigan State University Graduate School May 2026
Amount Awarded: $2,000

"20 Under 30" April 2023
The University of Memphis

Upsilon Mu Presidential Award April 2022
The University of Memphis

CORE COMPETENCIES

Professional Strengths

- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Organization
- Collaboration
- Information Ordering
- Adaptability
- Communication

Communication & Outreach

- Report Writing
- Briefing Development
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Community & Educational Outreach
- Public Speaking
- Research translation

Research & Analytical

- Crime Trend & Intelligence Analysis
- Qualitative & Quantitative Research
- Program Evaluation
- Policy Research
- Literature Reviews
- Statistical Data Analysis
- Information Collection & Synthesis
- Research Design
- Evidence-Based Decision Making

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

- Criminal Justice Policy
- Law Enforcement Training Research
- Public & Officer Safety
- Victimization Research
- Homeland Security
- Critical Infrastructure
- Legal Processes
- Investigative Support

TECHNICAL & SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE

Data & Statistical Analysis

- IBM SPSS
- Stata
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Power BI

Qualitative Research

- MAXQDA
- Dedoose
- Otter.ai

Survey Research Platforms

- Qualtrics

Investigative & Law Enforcement Technologies

- GeoTime
- Cellebrite
- FLOCK Camera Systems